

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GABORO 02595 161452Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02

EUR-12 /065 W

-----107397 172002Z /64

R 160956Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMVONSUL JOHANNESBURG 0969

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 2595

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB BC

SUBJ: UNIONS APPEAL FOR GOB INTERVENTION IN BFTU DISPUTE

REFS: (A) GABORONE 1520 (B) GABORONE 2070

1. SUMMARY: AALC REP JOHNSON TOLD US AUG 10 THAT GENERAL SECRETARY OF RAILWAYS WORKERS UNION E.B. SETLHARE AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF MINE WORKERS UNION D.M. SALESHANDRO HAVE ASKED GOB COMMISSIONER OF LABOR MASWABI TO INTERVENE FORMALLY IN ONGOING DISPUTE OVER LEADERSHIP OF BOTSWANA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (BFTU). DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT SETLHARE IS HIMSELF ONE OF THE PRIMARY CONTESTANTS FOR BFTU LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH HIS CLAIM TO OFFICE OF BFTU GENERAL SECRETARY HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY FACTION LED BY BANK WORKERS UNION LEADER TLHAODI (REFTELS). SETLHARE/SALESHANDRO LETTER TO MASWABI DATED JULY 30 (COPY WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG FOR LABOR ATTACHE) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BFTU IS NOT FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATIONS BECAUSE OF LEADERSHIP SQUABBLE. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GABORO 02595 161452Z

2. LETTER SUMMARIZES RECENT HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP DISPUTE SINCE SETLHARE ASSUMED POST OF BFTU GENERAL SECRETARY UPON FORMATION OF FEDERATION IN APRIL 1977. ACCORDING TO LETTER, CHALLENGE TO HIS LEADERSHIP AROSE WHEN HE ASSUMED FULL TIME POSITION AS SECRETARY OF RAILWAY WORKERS UNION IN OCTOBER 1977. IN VIEW OF DISSIDENT UNIONS (PRIMARILY BANK EMPLOYEES, DIAMOND SORTERS, GOVERNMENT MANUAL WORKERS, AND PARASTATAL

WORKERS), ACCEPTANCE OF THIS FULL TIME LABOR POSITION DIS-QUALIFIED SETLHARE FOR BFTU OFFICE UNDER SEC 20 OF BOTSWANA TRADE UNION ACT, WHICH REQUIRES THAT ALL UNION OFFICE HOLDERS BE "ENGAGED OR EMPLOYED . . . IN AN INDUSTRY OR OCCUPATION WITH WHICH THE TRADE UNION IS DIRECTLY CONCERNED". LETTER STATES THAT SETLHARE WAS ILLEGALLY REMOVED FROM GENERAL SECRETARY POSITION BY BFTU MEETING IN WHICH MINE WORKERS AND RAILWAYS WORKERS WERE NOT REPRESENTED, ALTHOUGH GOB COMMISSIONER OF LABOR HAD PREVIOUSLY RULED THAT SETLHARE'S ACCEPTANCE OF FULL TIME RAILWAYS WORKERS POST DID NOT DISQUALIFY HIM.

3. SETLHARE/SALESHANDRO LETTER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SPLIT HAS RESULTED IN COMPETING CLAIMS FOR POST OF BFTU GENERAL SECRETARY AND PARALYSIS OF FEDERATION. IT ACCUSES BANK WORKERS PRESIDENT TLHAODI OF FRUSTRATING EFFORTS TO HEAL DISPUTE BY INTIMIDATING BFTU MEMBERS AND REQUESTS THAT COMMISSIONER OF LABOR PREVENT SPENDING OF BFTU FUNDS BY "UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE". FINALLY, SETLHARE AND SALESHANDRO ALLEGE THAT DISPUTE HAS BEEN FUELED BY "DONOR AGENCIES" AND REQUESTS THAT SUCH AID BE STOPPED.

4. JOHNSON TOLD US HE HOPES LETTER WILL BRING GOB INTERVENTION IN FORM OF MEDIATOR WHO COULD COMPEL BOTH SIDES TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH UNTIL LEADERSHIP DISPUTE IS RESOLVED. MEANWHILE TLHAODI FACTION CONTINUES EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION BY PUSHING FOR ADMISSION OF TWO NEW UNIONS (COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL WORKERS AND CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL WORKERS) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GABORO 02595 161452Z

INTO FEDERATION. FREDERICK EBERT FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO FUND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THLAODI FACTION INCLUDING SYMPOSIUM WHICH OPENED AUG 14 IN MAHALAPYE. AALC, HOWEVER, HAS SUSPENDED ANY FUNDING OF BFTU LABOR EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UNTIL LEADERSHIP DISPUTE IS RESOLVED. JOHNSON IS WORRIED THAT BFTU DISPUTE WILL NOT BE SETTLED BEFORE OCTOBER 20-23 MEETING OF AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS IN GABORONE. ALTHOUGH MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE UNDER JOINT AALC/BFTU AUSPICES, JOHNSON BELIEVES THAT PARTICIPATION OF UNITED AND EFFECTIVE BFTU IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL.

5. COMMENT: JOHNSON'S PESSIMISM APPEARS JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF CONTINUING INFIGHTING AMONG BFTU LEADERS. WE BELIEVE UPCOMING MEETING OF AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS IN GABORONE INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF OFFICIAL GOB INTERVENTION TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT OF OPEN SPLIT WITHIN BOTSWANA'S OWN LABOR MOVEMENT.

ALBERTI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO02595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-1135
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780860/aaaabybm.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5bfcf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GABORONE 1520, 78 GABORONE 2070
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1729505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIONS APPEAL FOR GOB INTERVENTION IN BFTU DISPUTE
TAGS: ELAB, BC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5bfcf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014